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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 PA-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 DHA-05 TRSE-00
ACDA-10 L-03 /104 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RUNDELAND:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS
----------084218 140057Z /62
O 132341Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 13

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EX-
CERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 1977:
(FYI ONLY, THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS KEN
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BROWN PLUS HODDING CARTER WHERE INDICATED).

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY BELIEVE IT WAS UNREASONABLE FOR
RABBI JOSEPH STERNSTEIN TO PROTEST THE TIMING AND CONTENT
OF HODDING'S UNDESIGNATED PALESTINIANS MUST BE PRESENT IN
GENEVA STATEMENT ON THE EVE OF ROSH HASHANA WHEN AMERICA'S
JEWISH COMMUNITY IS MOBILIZED?

A. WELL, LET ME REITERATE SOMETHING THAT HODDING SAID
YESTERDAY AND THEN GET MORE DIRECTLY INTO YOUR QUESTION.

AS HODDING EXPLAINED YESTERDAY, WE MADE THE STATEMENT YES-
TERDAY IN ANSWER TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR POSITION
ON PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. WE
WANTED TO MAKE THAT POSITION CLEAR TO ALL PRIOR TO THE
ROUND OF TALKS THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ARE TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK WITH MIDDLE EAST FOREIGN MINISTERS.

BUT NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE READ INTO ITS
BEING MADE YESTERDAY.

Q. I THINK THAT IS A GOOD ANSWER.

A. WELL, I CAN ADD ONE THING, WHICH IS THAT THE STATEMENT
WAS A STATEMENT ON A SUBJECT OF CONCERN TO ALL AND WAS
NOT DIRECTED TOWARD ANY OF THEM IN PARTICULAR AND IT
CERTAINLY WAS NOT INTENDED TO OFFEND ANYONE'S RELIGIOUS

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FEELINGS.

Q. WHILE WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF THAT STATEMENT, I HATE TO THROW YOU INTO THEOLOGY THIS EARLY ON, BUT THE SECOND PARAGRAPH BEGINS "MOREOVER, TO BE LASTING, A PEACE AGREEMENT MUST BE POSITIVELY SUPPORTED BY ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS".

AT WHAT POINT IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW OF THINGS DID

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THE PALESTINIANS BECOME "A PARTY TO THE CONFLICT"?

A. I THINK THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY IN THEIR STATEMENTS EARLIER ON HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT A PEACE SETTLEMENT WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND IN THAT REGARD I THINK PERHAPS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IS SUPPLEMENTED.

Q. YES. THAT IS NOT AN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION. THE CONFLICT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ARE THE VARIOUS WARS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MOST RECENTLY IN '73, BUT IN REFERENCE TO 242 IN '67. AT WHAT POINT IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW DID THE PALESTINIANS BECOME " A PARTY TO THE CONFLICT"?

A. I CAN'T DEFINE A PRECISE POINT IN TIME IN REGARD TO THAT PARTICULAR LINE IN THE STATEMENT. I AM SORRY.

Q. COULD YOU TAKE THAT QUESTION, PLEASE?

A. YES. WE WILL TAKE IT.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY REACTION FROM OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO THE STATEMENT?

A. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE STATEMENT WITH OTHER PARTIES, YES.

Q. HAVE THEY GIVEN YOU THEIR REACTION, THEIR VIEWS?

A. YOU COULD SAY YES, THAT WE DO HAVE SOME VIEWS ON THE

STATEMENT. BUT, I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT.

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Q. WHEN DID YOU DISCUSS IT WITH OTHER PARTIES?

A. THE STATEMENT WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE ISRAELIS OVER THE WEEKEND, AS YOU KNOW. WITH REGARD TO ANY DISCUSSION WITH

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ANYONE ON THE ARAB SIDE, I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU.

Q. SO, IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS JUST THE ISRAELIS, THE SAME THING WE HEARD YESTERDAY ABOUT THE ISRAELIS BEING TOLD IN ADVANCE, BUT NO ONE ELSE BEING TOLD?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU.

Q. SO, THE ONLY PEOPLE YOU HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH IS THE ISRAELIS, IS THAT IT, AND THE RABBI WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT IT?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. IS THE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN RELATED TO THE STATEMENT?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

A. THEY WILL BE DISCUSSING SOME PROBLEMS. THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS THAT I CAN'T REALLY GO INTO.

Q. THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I CAN'T REALLY GO INTO WHAT THEY ARE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT A SWISS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP THAT RECENTLY VISITED ISRAEL AND ACCUSED ISRAEL OF MISTAKING THE PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK?
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A. WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS. WE DON'T HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE REPORT AND SUFFICIENT INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE DOES NOT EXIST ON WHICH TO MAKE THE JUDGMENT THAT THERE IS CONSISTENT AND OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED PRACTICE OF TORTURE. OF COURSE, WE OPPOSE THE USE OF TORTURE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES THEN ASK THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THIS? -

A. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING INTO IN TERMS OF TRYING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REPORTS, BUT I CAN'T GIVE YOU A RESPONSE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THAT WAS ACTUALLY DISCUSSED WITH THE ISRAELIS.

Q. KEN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "CONSISTENT". DO YOU MEAN RULING OUT IT MIGHT BE INCONSISTENT?

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A. I WOULD INFER FROM THAT THAT ONE PERHAPS WOULDN'T RULE OUT ISOLATED INCIDENTS. WE ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT A POLICY, A CONSISTENT PRACTICE.

Q. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING INTO IT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY YOU ARE LOOKING INTO THE SITUATION IN THAT REPORT, ARE YOU LOOKING INTO THE REPORT OR ARE YOU LOOKING INTO THE ALLEGATIONS?

A. IT IS ONE AND THE SAME THING. THE REPORT HAS TO DO WITH ALLEGATIONS.
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Q. I KNOW THAT. BUT, WHAT I AM TRYING TO FIND IS THE DISTINCTION OF WHETHER YOU ARE TRYING TO GET TO THE SOURCE OF WHAT THE REPORT IS ABOUT. YOU ARE LOOKING INTO THE FACT OF WHETHER OR NOT THE ALLEGATIONS ARE CORRECT?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. HOW ARE YOU LOOKING INTO IT? DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE CONSULATE IN JERUSALEM IS NOW GOING OUT AND INTERVIEWING PEOPLE WHO CLAIM THEY HAVE BEEN TORTURED?

A. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THAT.

Q. YOU KNOW, YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE POKING AROUND IN A COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR ITS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU VALUE THE WEST BANK. ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TRYING TO EXAMINE THESE REPORTS BY GOING TO THE ORIGIN OF THE REPORTS OR WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT IT?

A. INDEED ALLEGATIONS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND TORTURE MIGHT BE TAKING PLACE ON THE WEST BANK ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND WE CONSIDER THEM IMPORTANT AND SOMETHING THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO. AS TO HOW WE ARE LOOKING INTO IT, I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION FOR YOU. BUT, I DON'T IMAGINE THAT WE ARE INTERVIEWING. HODDING, DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT? -

MR. CARTER: WE RAISED THE QUESTION WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND WE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. INSOFAR AS SENDING OUT INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATORS, WE HAVE NOT DONE THAT. WE CLEARLY CAN'T DO THAT ANY MORE THAN PEOPLE WILL BE DOING THAT SORT OF THING HERE. BUT, THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND IS UNDER DISCUSSION.
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Q. SO, IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN ALLEGATIONS ARE MADE WE JUST SIMPLY TAKE AN OFFICIAL ANSWER TO IT WITHOUT BOTHERING TO SEE WHETHER THE OFFICIAL ANSWER HAS ANY VALIDITY?

MR. CARTER: I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE SO CORRECT ABOUT THIS OR ANY OTHER INSTANCES. WE CERTAINLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT AN OFFICIAL ANSWER IS AND IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WE HOPE THAT WE WILLL HAVE THAT AND THEREAFTER IT DEPENDS ON THE ANSWERS. BUT, I MEAN IT IS NOT FORECLOSED. THAT IS ALL I AM TRYING TO SAY. THE DISCUSSION IS GOING ON.

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US AN IDEA ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE REQUEST TO THE ISRAELI OFFICIALS FOR INFORMATION?

MR. CARTER: IT PRECEDES THIS PARTICULAR REPORT BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER REPORTS WHICH ALLEGE MUCH THE SAME THING.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY RESPONSE YET FROM ISRAEL?

MR. CARTER: BASICALLY, I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO WHAT THEY SAID IN A PRIVATE DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATION. I WOULD SIMPLY SAY THERE HAS BEEN AN EXPLORATION OF THE SUBJECT AND THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN NOTED BY US AND WE ARE TRYING TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON IT.

Q. SO, THE SUBJECT IS STILL OPEN, YOU ARE STILL WAITING FOR RESPONSES?

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MR. CARTER. NO. I WOULD SAY THAT THE DISCUSSION CONTINUES AND IT IS NOT FORECLOSED AT THIS POINT.

Q. WOULD THAT MEAN THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT HAS NO PREVIOUS INFORMATION ON TORTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK BY THE ISRAELIS?

MR. CARTER: I THINK THAT "INFORMATION" ISN'T THE WORD I WOULD USE, IN ANY CASE, BECAUSE IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME INDEPENDENT SOURCE -- WE HAVE HEARD A NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS OVER THE TIME.

Q. BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT TAKE AN EXCLUSIVE ACTION, ITSELF, TO FIND OUT IF THIS IS TRUE OR WRONG?

MR. CARTER: WELL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS TRYING ACTION THAT IT IS ENTITLED TO TAKE WHEN A QUESTION ARISES SUCH

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AS THIS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY -- AND WE DO IT IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES -- WHICH IS TO RAISE ALLEGATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME AND TO ASK FOR SOME INFORMATION.

Q. I SEEM TO RECALL IN THIS CONNECTION, CALLING YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS DESK ABOUT THE CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZAIRE AS WELL AS IN PANAMA; AND I SEEM TO RECALL THAT IN BOTH CASES, YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS DESK MADE REFERENCE TO A REPORT FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND FREEDOM HOUSE. HAVE YOU, IN LIGHT OF THE REPORT IN THE LONDON TIMES, I BELIEVE IT WAS WHO ALLEGED ISRAELI TORTURES, HAVE YOU CONSULTED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL?

MR. CARTER: I AM NOT SURE, BUT SINCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS DESK IS VERY EAGER TO TALK I'M SURE, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT BOTH THOSE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE REPORTED ON ISRAEL.

Q. IF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE LONDON TIMES AND UNCLASSIFIED

THE LAWYERS GUILD HAVE ALL REPORTED ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS IN ISRAEL BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES, DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STILL PLAN TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON THESE ISSUES IN THE FUTURE -- OTHER THAN JUST CONSULT WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, OR IN THIS QUESTION IS THERE A MORATORIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN IT COMES TO ISRAEL, CONCERNING THE ISRAELIS?

A. NO, THERE IS NOT A MORATORIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED. BUT I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY PREVIOUS COMMENT THAT I MADE REGARDING INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE AND JUDGMENT THAT THIS WAS A CONSISTENT PRACTICE.

Q. COULD YOU DEFINE WHAT YOU MEAN BY INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE AT THE RED CROSS, OR WHATEVER? I MEAN, WHAT IS "INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE" IN THIS CASE?

A. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE WOULD DEFINE IT NOW, BUT I AM SURE THAT I CAN GET SOMETHING FOR YOU ON THAT, AS FAR AS GOING BEYOND THIS STATEMENT IS CONCERNED.

Q. WHAT IS THE MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER DOING HERE?

A. DR. AHMED LARAKI ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES LATE YESTERDAY, ON SEPTEMBER 12TH. TODAY HE IS HAVING A WORKING LUNCH WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND WILL BE SEEING DR. BRZEZINSKY AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE DISCUSSIONS WILL COVER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF

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COMMON INTEREST.

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Q. IS HE HERE ON SEPARATE BUSINESS. OR IS HE HERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE U.N.?

IS HE GOING BACK TO MOROCCO BEFORE HE GOES ANYWHERE ELSE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. I BELIEVE HE WILL BE VISITING LATER IN THE YEAR, BUT ANYTHING THAT I DO HAVE, ANY FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE TO COME OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. KEN, HERE IS A QUESTION WHICH WAS ASKED EARLIER AND ANSWERED EARLIER, BUT I WONDER IF THERE IS ANYTHING NEW ON IT.

DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF THE ARMS BEING DELIVERED TO THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT AND/OR THE SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT, BY SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, ARE AMERICAN ARMS?

AND ARE ANY OF THEM UNDER THE CONSTRAINTS ON TRANSFER OF AMERICAN ARMS TO THIRD PARTIES WHICH ARE NORMALLY IMPOSED ON AMERICAN ARMS?

A. WE DO HAVE KNOWLEDGE THAT NO AMERICAN ARMS ARE BEING ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRED BY THIRD PARTIES TO THE THAT IS, ARMS THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED UNDER OUR ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS.

Q. YOU HAVE POSITIVE KNOWLEDGE THAT NONE ARE BEING TRANSFERRED?

A. THAT NONE ARE BEING TRANSFERRED IN VIOLATION OF OUR ARMS AGREEMENT.

Q. I WONDERED IF I COULD FOLLOW THAT UP. HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY HAVE POSITIVE KNOWLEDGE THAT NO ARMS ARE

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BEING TRANSFERRED?

A. TO THE EXTENT THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHECK THAT OUT, AND TO THE EXTENT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT INFORMATION FOR THE GOVERNMENTS.

OUR INQUIRIES HAVE RESULTED IN ANSWERS THAT ARE SATISFACTORY TO US.

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Q. THAT IS, NO ARMS AT ALL, OR "NO ARMS THAT COME UNDER THOSE CONSTRAINTS?" I.E. "NO U.S. ARMS" OR "NO ARMS THAT COME UNDER THE CONSTRAINTS?"

A. WELL, THE IMPORTANT POINT IN MY RESPONSE AND, I DON'T KNOW THAT I CAN GO BEYOND IT, IS THAT THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH WE HAVE SUPPLIED MATERIAL, ARE NOT VIOLATING OUR AGREEMENT WITH THEM IN TERMS OF PROVIDING THAT MATERIAL IN VIOLATION OF OUR AGREEMENT.

Q. ARE ANY SUPPLYING MATERIAL THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY US FOR TRANSFER?

A. NO.

Q. THAT COVERS IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA?

A. YES.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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